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Executive Committee

Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Draft decision

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015

1. At its ninth session (Geneva, 18 November 2013), the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels (renamed subsequently as the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels) recommended to the Executive Committee to approve its work plan for 2014–2015.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II (item III) of the Executive Committee decision on Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/7) mandates the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels to carry out concrete, result-oriented activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. These activities are to be developed and implemented with the active participation of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts, and academia. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will concentrate on the following areas of work:

(a) Regulatory and policy dialogue;

(b) Sharing best practices on cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;

(c) Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), as well as carbon utilization;

(d) Enhanced oil recovery with CO_2;

(e) Advanced fossil fuel technologies for power generation; and

(f) Evaluation of efficiency enhancing measures for coal-fired power plants including steam generators, air and flue gas systems, steam turbines, generators.

3. The Clean Coal Centre (CCC) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI), and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) each conduct a wide range of activities related to CCS, many of which should be of interest to various ECE member States and are closely related to the proposed activities for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. ECE should engage in close contact with these organizations in order to create synergies and avoid duplications.

II. Concrete activities

4. At its meeting[1] held in November 2013, the Group of Experts agreed to a self-imposed deadline of November 2014, in other words for the first year of its current two-year mandate, to address CCS and to conduct an analysis of other approaches to increasing conversion efficiency through the following four activities (see paragraphs 20, 26 and 27 of the report ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2013/2):

[1] The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, as it was called then, held its ninth session in Geneva on 18 November 2013.

A. Prepare a survey of carbon capture and storage (CCS): landscape, recent developments and stakeholders

Description: At the 18 November 2013 meeting a consensus emerged that during 2014 CCS should be a focus of work in the first year. As a first step, the Group of Experts agreed to prepare a report on CCS covering the landscape, recent developments, and principal actors so that the role for the Group of Experts could be precisely defined and duplication of efforts undertaken elsewhere be avoided.

Work to be undertaken:

- Initial review of existing literature on CCS technology developments and policy frameworks (first bibliography and short report by 1 May 2014):
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts identify and contact principal stakeholders from government and nongovernmental sectors, academia and international organisations;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts map who does what in CCS in an intergovernmental context;
- The Bureau of the Group of Experts and experts identify possible areas where the Group of Experts could provide value added; and
- The secretariat and Bureau draft a report for consideration by the Group of Experts by September 2014.

Deliverables: A draft report/survey of CCS landscape, recent developments and stakeholders

Timeline: September 2014

B. Assist UNFCCC in assessing CCS technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Description: At its 18 November 2013 meeting the Group of Experts offered its assistance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in assessing CCS technology. To this end, the Group of Experts agreed to prepare recommendations for the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production, as well as CCS for enhanced oil recovery, could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Building on the results of the survey in item (a) of this work plan, the Group of Experts would prepare a report containing recommendations and suggestions from UNECE to be transmitted to UNFCCC, with a request that the report's recommendations and proposals be considered when a post-Kyoto, post-2015 Treaty is discussed and prepared. The Group of Experts would work with a self-imposed deadline of completing this action by November 2014, when this activity would be reviewed by the Group of Experts and a written report finalized and adopted. This work will be closely coordinated with the IEA's Clean Coal Center (CCC).

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts draft a report to UNFCCC with recommendations on the use of CCS and enhanced oil recovery as tools for climate change mitigation by November 2014;
- The secretariat organises a peer review of the recommendations to UNFCCC;
- The Bureau of the Group of Experts drafts a note/letter to UNFCCC outlining the ECE position regarding the use of CCS in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by April 2015;

- The secretariat organizes meetings between UNFCCC stakeholders and the Group of Experts to discuss and refine the recommendations as needed:
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts submit the recommendations to UNFCCC as a parliamentary document for adoption at the next session of the Group of Experts and endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts submit the recommendations and report formally to the UNFCCC.

Deliverables: Recommendations to the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Timeline: November 2014

C. Assess the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the ECE region

Description: An analysis serving the basis for developing best practices on the implementation of modernization measures from an economic and environmental perspective is prepared by secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts.

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and a task force of dedicated members of the Group of Experts conduct an initial review of actors and existing information to avoid duplication of efforts;
- The secretariat and the task force identify gaps in information on the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants;
- The secretariat and the task force prepare a background document for the next session of the Group of Experts on the status of conversion efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region;
- The secretariat and the task force present the findings to the next session of the Group of Experts; and
- The Group of Experts consider possible next steps, including collaboration with qualified partners (international organizations, academia) in assessing and improving the conversion efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region.

Deliverables: A baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region.

Timeline: Review of actors and developments (May 2014); background document (September 2014), presentation to the Group of Experts (October 2014), possible follow-up work (November 2015).

D. Define other activities through electronic exchanges among members of the Group of Experts

Description: In addition to CCS, the Group of Experts decided to explore other possible activities through an interactive electronic exchange among members of the Group of Experts. The additional activities should be concrete, tangible, and not duplicative with of the work of other bodies and groups are doing and should be in line with the activities mandated by member States. In the past, the Group of Experts had examined ways of

improving the conversion efficiency of coal-fired power plants through, for example, utilization of unconventional fossil fuels, pre-combustion treatment of coal and other fossil fuels, coal and electricity production clustering, and similar clean coal strategies that increase conversion efficiency.

Work to be undertaken:

- Organize teleconferences and electronic exchanges among members of the Group of Experts;
- Explore the possibility for the Bureau to physically meet and discuss and prioritize other activities; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts prepare a draft proposal for the tenth session on the work plan for 2015, including review and comment by and input from member States.

Deliverables: A work plan covering the period November 2014–December 2015 concerning the development of best practices.

Timeline: November 2014